

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~In a system having a set top box receiving programming content and a display device for displaying the programming content, a method for recording a first channel included in the programming content while displaying a second channel on the display device, the method comprising the acts of:~~ In a system having a set top box receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided to the set top box in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, a method for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, and thereby also permitting display of one of the recorded channels while recording another one of the selected channels, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving at the set top box digital programming content which is comprised of any or any combination of satellite transmissions, cable television transmissions, local television transmissions, radio transmissions, Internet data, MPEG video or audio, video streams, or audio streams, and wherein the digital programming content is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider and wherein the digital format of at least one channel is other than MPEG;

isolating and thereby selecting the at least one channel from the programming content with a tuner, demodulator and transport demultiplexer of the set top box receiver;

storing the digital content of the at least one channel on a storage medium without decoding it so as to store it using the same digital format with which the at least one channel was received at the set top box in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it;

retrieving digital content of a second channel from the storage medium that has previously been stored prior to decoding;

decoding the digital content of the second channel into an analog format for display at a display device while storing the digital content of the at least one channel on the storage medium; and

displaying the decoded analog format of the content of the second channel on the display device.

~~receiving the programming content at the set top box;~~

~~tuning a first stream from the programming content with a tuner;~~

~~demultiplexing the first stream with a transport to produce a first channel;~~

~~storing the first channel on a storage medium at the set top box prior to decoding the first channel with a decoder coupled to a transport output, in order to store the first channel without degrading the first channel, wherein the transport output can be selectively decoupled from the decoder;~~

~~retrieving a second channel from the storage medium;~~

~~decoding the second channel with the decoder while storing the first channel on the storage medium; and~~

~~displaying the second channel on the display device without using the tuner.~~

2. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of tuning further comprises the act of demodulating the first stream.

3. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the act of tuning further comprises the act of demultiplexing the first stream to produce a channel.

4. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of storing the first stream further comprises the act of storing a channel included in the first stream.

5. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of displaying a second stream further comprises the act of decoding the second stream.

6. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the second stream comprises a channel that has been previously tuned by the tuner and stored on the storage medium.

7. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the first stream comprises a digital channel.

8. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 7, wherein the act of storing the digital channel is conducted without performing any digital to analog conversion on the digital channel prior to storing the digital channel on the storage medium.

9. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the programming content is received from a transponder on a satellite.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~In a system receiving digital programming content including a plurality of channels, a method for recording a channel included in the plurality of channels without degrading the channel, the method comprising the acts of:~~ In a system having a set top box receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided to the set top box in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, a method for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, the method comprising the acts of:

tuning and demodulating the digital programming content to identify multiple channels contained by the programming content, and wherein the content of each channel is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider and wherein the digital format of at least one channel is other than MPEG;

demultiplexing the multiple channels of the transport stream with a transport demultiplexer in order to select the at least one channel; and

recording on a storage medium the at least one channel without decoding it so as to store it using the same digital format with which the at least one channel was received at the set top box in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it.

~~tuning and demodulating the programming content to identify the plurality of channels;~~

~~demultiplexing the plurality of channels with a transport to select the channel, wherein the channel is digitally encoded;~~

~~recording the channel on a storage medium without decoding the channel with a decoder coupled to a transport output such that the recorded channel is not degraded, wherein the transport output can be selectively decoupled from the decoder; retrieving a previously recorded channel; and decoding the previously recorded channel while recording the channel on the storage medium.~~

11. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the act of tuning and demodulating further comprises the act of selecting, by a user, the channel to be recorded.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the at least one channel is compressed.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the act of recording the at least one channel further comprises the act of simultaneously displaying the at least one channel on a display device.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the act of displaying the at least one channel further comprises the act of decoding the at least one channel with a decoder, wherein the decoder produces video output and audio outputs.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 10, further comprising the acts of:

decoding a second channel already recorded on the storage medium while the at least one channel is recording on the storage medium; and

displaying the second channel, ~~wherein the second channel is not tuned by the system when the second channel is displayed.~~

16. (Canceled) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the programming content is tuned and demodulated in a set top box having a tuner and a demodulator, wherein the programming content is received from a transponder of a satellite.

17. ~~(Currently Amended) In a system receiving programming content from a programming content provider, a device for recording a selected channel included in the programming content without degrading the selected channel, the device comprising:~~ In a system having a set top box receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided to the set top box in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, an apparatus for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, the apparatus comprising:

tuner and a demodulator adapted for receiving and operating on the digital programming content to identify multiple channels contained by the programming content, and wherein the content of each channel is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider and wherein the digital format of at least one channel is other than MPEG;

a transport coupled to the output of the demodulator and adapted to demultiplex the multiple channels of the transport stream in order to permit selection of the at least one channel; and

a storage device coupled to the transport for recording the at least one channel without decoding it so as to store it using the same digital format with which the at least one channel was received at the set top box in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it.

~~a tuner that tunes the programming content to a plurality of channels included in the programming content;~~

~~a demodulator that demodulates the plurality of channels tuned by the tuner;~~
~~a transport, wherein the transport receives the plurality of channels demodulated by the demodulator and demultiplexes the plurality of channels to produce the selected channel at a transport output that is connected to a decoder, wherein the transport output can be selectively decoupled from the decoder; and~~
~~a storage medium for receiving and recording the selected channel when the transport is decoupled from the decoder such that the selected channel is recorded on the storage medium without degrading the selected channel.~~

18. (Canceled) A device as defined in claim 17, wherein the selected channel being recorded is included in the plurality of channels tuned by the tuner.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~device~~ as defined in claim 17, further comprising a wherein the decoder that is connected to the storage medium such that a previously recorded channel may be decoded and displayed on a display device while the at least one selected channel is recorded on the storage medium.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~device~~ as defined in claim 19, wherein the decoder is also coupled to the transport so that a selected channel output from the transponder may be simultaneously directed to the selected channel to both the storage medium for recording and to the decoder for display of the selected channel as it is recorded.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus device as defined in claim 17, further comprising a conditional access system for the conditional access system determining whether the device may display the a selected channel may be displayed.